
**POLITICAL DECLARATION OF PUNTA CANA
V CELAC SUMMIT**

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
January 25th, 2017

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered on the occasion of the Fifth Summit of the CELAC, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on January 25th, of the present year (2017);

Determined to continue advancing in unity and diversity and in Latin American and Caribbean integration, for the benefit of our region and for the wellbeing of our peoples; we reaffirm the validity of the historical heritage of the Community, comprised of the Rio Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC), as well as the Political Declarations, Special Declarations, Communiqués and Plans of Action adopted by the previous CELAC Summits, including the Caracas Foundational Summit, the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean and the convergence process that gave way to CELAC.

Aware that the CELAC is the mechanism for agreement, unity and political dialogue in all of Latin America and the Caribbean, we ratify this space as one for the promotion of the common interests of our peoples.

Reiterating that dialogue and political agreement on the basis of reciprocal trust between our governments and respect for our differences are indispensable for further advancement towards political, economic, social and cultural integration of the Community, based on equilibrium between the convergence and the diversity of our countries; in formulating our own solutions to promote and maintain peace, inclusive and sustainable development of our peoples in order to achieve complete eradication of hunger and poverty, and promotion of the regional agenda in global forums and cooperation with other States, Regions and International Organizations, as defined among the objectives of CELAC at the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean, held at the Riviera Maya in February 2010.

Reiterating the unrestricted respect for and full adherence to the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations and International Law, in particular the respect to sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs of the states,

dialogue among nations, peaceful settlement of disputes, and prohibition of the threat or use of force. We consider as a priority the strengthening of the multilateralism.

Committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions -economic, social and environmental, in a balanced and integrated way, as agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with proposals for regional and global challenges, seeking common solutions for the benefit of our peoples, leaving no one behind, for which it is essential to have adequate financial resources.

Recognizing the importance of promoting and implementing public policies aimed at creating strategies for growth according to the characteristics of each country, in a balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure manner.

Reaffirming that the historical process of consolidation, preservation and the full exercise of democracy in our region is irreversible, does not admit interruptions or retreats and will continue to be marked by respect for the essential values of democracy; access to power and its exercise in accordance with the rule of law; and respect for the constitutional faculties of the various State powers and constructive dialogue between them; the holding of free, transparent, informed and sustained elections in universal and secret suffrage as an expression of the people's sovereignty, citizen participation, social justice and equality, the fight against corruption, as well as respect for all public freedoms recognized in international instruments.

Committed to the promotion, protection and respect of all Human Rights, without any discrimination, as a fundamental basis for sustaining the democratic life of our nations. We underline the importance of implementing measures aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable people, including indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, migrants, persons with disabilities and women. At the same time, we will promote gender equality, decent work and will work to eradicate child labor in our region as part of actions aimed at prioritizing the rights of children and adolescents as subjects of law.

We convene the following:

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the consolidation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, formally proclaimed during the II Summit of

CELAC, held in Havana, in January, 2014, and as a reference for interstate relations, and that contributes to the environment of mutual respect and confidence building among CELAC member States. Likewise, we emphasize the call for all States to respect the assertions of the Proclamation in their relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed at the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and the recognition of the right of States to have their own political, economic, social and cultural system as an indispensable basis for promoting peace and harmony in the region.

2. We support the process of national dialogue in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela between the Government and the opposition, with the accompaniment of the Secretary General of UNASUR, Ernesto Samper, ex-presidents José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Leonel Fernández, Martín Torrijos, and the special representative of his Holiness Pope Francis. We urge the Parties to work towards achieving concrete results, as well as to comply, without delay, with the agreements reached so far, guarantee continuity of the process and resume the talks in good faith and with a constructive commitment and with full adherence to the rule of Law, human rights and democratic institutionalality, especially the separation of power within the framework of the constitution and the legislation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and under the principle of respect for non intervention in the internal affairs of States.
3. We highlight the character of a zone free of nuclear weapons in our region, established in the pioneering Tlatelolco Treaty, whose 50th anniversary will be celebrated in February 14th, in Mexico, within the framework of the 25th Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL).
4. We reaffirm the urgent need to move towards the main objective of general and complete disarmament, under strict international control, and achieving a total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. In that regard, we reiterate our intention to join in and actively participate in the negotiation that will begin in 2017 within the framework of the United Nations of a legally binding universal instrument that prohibits nuclear weapons in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner within a temporary framework agreed upon at the multilateral level and that leads to their total elimination.

5. We reiterate our deep rejection to acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including its funding, whatever motives may drive it, wherever and whomever has committed them, as well as our concern for violent extremism, which may lead to terrorism.
6. Highlight the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), including the Internet, as tools to foster peace, human well being, development, knowledge, social inclusion and economic growth. We reaffirm the peaceful use of ICT, and urge the international community to avoid and refrain from carrying out unilateral measures which are incompatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Law, such as those with the objective of subverting societies or creating situations with the potential of fostering conflicts among states. At the same time, we stress, in regard to the use of ICT the need to not infringe on the individuals right to privacy.
7. We make a call to reach a fair, stable and lasting solution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

COERCIVE MEASURES

8. We reiterate our rejection to the application of unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law, including the lists and certifications that affect the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
9. We reiterate that the contents of paragraph 13 of the Political Declaration approved in Quito, 2016, as well as from the Special Communiqué of the 3rd CELAC Summit (Belen, 2015) and the Special Communiqué of March 26th, 2015, on unilateral actions against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and we believe the Executive Order of the United States of America, originally approved on March 9th, 2015 should be rescinded.
10. We welcome the progress in the relations between the Governments of Cuba and the United States of America and, in that context, the visit by the President of the United States of America to Cuba in March 2016. We reaffirm our call to the United

States government to unconditionally put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade it has imposed on the sister nation for more than five decades and is still in force. We urge the President of the United States, to use his broad executive powers to substantially change the application of the blockade.

NAVAL BASE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN GUANTANAMO

11. We believe that the return to the Republic of Cuba of the territory that the United States Naval Base occupies at Guantanamo, as it has been repeatedly claimed by the Cuban people and government, should be a relevant element of the process of normalization of relations between both countries, through a bilateral dialogue that adheres to International Law.

TRANSPARENCY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

12. We reiterate our commitment to strengthening mechanisms that allow us to prevent, detect, sanction and combat corruption, to improve efficiency and transparency in public administration, to promote accountability at all levels, as well as citizen participation in the oversight of public affairs and access to information, in accordance with national legislations and international conventions signed by States.

CITIZEN SECURITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

13. We recognize the importance of strengthening cooperation, both between States and with societies in reducing and preventing crime related violence, as well as in combating transnational organized crime and its various manifestations for the benefit of development.
14. In that sense, we reaffirm our commitment to promote police and judicial cooperation, and to strengthen inter-agency cooperation mechanisms in the field of internal security, including digital security matters, in accordance with the adopted international obligations and the legal system of each country.

FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND ERADICATION OF HUNGER

15. We reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 (SAN-CELAC), in accordance with the Special Declaration on Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger. We will continue to undertake efforts to obtain concrete results that allow significant improvements in the quality of life of our peoples.

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

16. In accordance with the Special Declaration on “Financing for Development”, we advocate to continue working towards obtaining a proper environment for sustainable development and for overcoming challenges that financing for development presents. In this regard, we reiterate our call for developed countries to comply with the commitment to allocate 0.7% of their Gross National Product for Official Development Assistance (ODA), while reaffirming the agreed upon commitments as part of the Monterrey Consensus (2002), the Doha Declaration (2008) and the Addis Ababa Action Plan (2015). Likewise, we commit to continue promoting the use of criteria that utilize multidimensional indicators for the accurate measurement of the complex and diverse realities of development of the region.

TAX COOPERATION

17. Recognizing the need of fostering international tax cooperation, strengthening regulatory frameworks, promoting the interests of developing countries in international fora and supporting inter-governmental initiatives to contest tax evasion and avoidance, corruption and money laundering, which undertaking certain practices, create incentives for the illicit transfer of assets that cause negative effects on global economy, particularly for developing countries.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

18. We welcome the New Urban Agenda approved at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) that was held in Quito from the 13th to the 20th of October of 2016, and we commit to support its follow-up and review process. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to

sustainable urban development and, with the common ideal of a city for all, shared in the New Urban Agenda, in terms of equality in the use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, seeking to promote integration and ensure that all inhabitants, both present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, can create and live in just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and settlements, in order to promote prosperity and quality of life for all. We highlight the efforts of some national and local governments to enshrine this ideal, known as "the right to the city", in their laws, political declarations and charters.

GENDER EQUALITY

19. We affirm our commitment to promote gender equity and equality, as well as the advancement of women, as necessary conditions to achieve full exercise and enjoyment of fundamental freedoms, as well as human rights in order to achieve the goals and targets for Sustainable Development of the 2030 Agenda, implementing actions for its incorporation as central and cross-cutting axes of the policies, strategies and actions of the States.
20. We commit to eradicate all forms of violence against women, adolescents and girls, to promote their political and economic empowerment by eliminating all social barriers, approving and strengthening public policies and laws on gender equality to promote gender equality, to ensure full access to education and justice, as well as economic and financial autonomy, and political participation and representation, in accordance with the Special Declaration on the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity and Eradication of Violence against Women.

EDUCATION

21. We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of public policies that aim to ensure at all levels the universal and free coverage of an inclusive, tenured and quality education, with a gender and intercultural perspective, without discrimination, that respects the creative skills and ancestral knowledge and the respect to the knowledge of other cultures, so that everyone develops capacities of critical thinking, logical, creative and innovative reasoning.

22. We will promote the active participation of families and communities in the different stages of the educational process, as well as the establishment of strategic alliances between the institutions of education systems, which strengthen academic mobility within the region and the mutual recognition of diplomas, while respecting national realities and legislations.

YOUTH

23. We acknowledge that young people constitute a significant segment of our populations, we commit to providing increased opportunities and equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve their desired goals and to facilitate their full participation in decision-making processes in the sustainable development of our societies.

PROMOTION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

24. We recognize that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), including the Internet, are important tools for promoting peace, human well-being, development, knowledge, social inclusion, growth and economic development within the framework of the Knowledge Society through the massive use of ICTs. Therefore, we highlight the need to conceive and carry out policies and strategies in order to close the digital divide between different countries and regions, while preserving the multicultural and diversity manifestations of the region.
25. We promote the universalization of inclusive access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), as important tools to democratize the access to knowledge to strengthen education processes through the development of diverse knowledge, abilities, dexterities and values; likewise, we will encourage the promotion of research and innovation, promoting the development of the personal, professional capacities and potentialities of the population.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

26. Aware of our region's vulnerability to climate change and natural and man-made disasters of natural and anthropic origin, including the Small Island Developing

States, and Low Lying Coastal States, countries of the Central American isthmus, and those who suffer the effects of El Niño and La Niña and Landlocked Developing States of the region, we recognize the importance of strengthening the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the fulfillment of all its goals in the region. This will contribute to the prevention and substantial management of the risk of disasters and the losses caused by them, in lives, means of subsistence, and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of individuals, enterprises, communities and countries.

27. We highlight the need to establish common strategies to strengthen coordination on disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation, building on the mandates of Sendai and the guiding principles of International Humanitarian Assistance adopted by resolution 46/182 of the United Nations General Assembly. In this regard, we emphasize the need for convergence between the multiple coordination spaces in the region and the need for them to be part of the regional and global strategies for disaster risk reduction agreed in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
27. BIS. We underscore the need and importance of contributing to the success of the 5th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, to be held in Montreal, Canada, on March 2017, as well as the 5th Global Platform Session for Reducing the Disaster Risk, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 22 to 27 May 2017.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

28. We call for the attainment of the highest political commitment to combat climate change as an urgent priority. In this sense, we welcome the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, applicable to the signatory States and Parties, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on the 4th of November, 2016. We invite all signatory countries that have not submitted their respective instruments of ratification and/or adhesion, to do so as soon as possible.
29. We recognize the importance of strengthening mitigation and adaptation actions, in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

and the Paris Agreement, which includes best practices of local communities and indigenous peoples, to face the adverse effects of climate change, in accordance with the principle of common yet differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Likewise, we reaffirm the importance of the means of implementation for developing countries to carry out their climate actions. Taking into consideration that our countries are located in a region highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, we call on developed countries to fulfill their commitments on the matters of financing, with new and additional resources, technology and capacity building, including the full implementation of the Green Climate Fund of 100 billion dollars annually for developing countries from 2020 onwards.

30. We will continue to promote regional measures to encourage the protection of ecosystems, reduce deforestation and degradation, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and species of wild flora and fauna threatened by international trade. We commend the recent progress in promoting synergy among the biodiversity conventions, including the possibility of promoting this objective through public policies and National Plans, in particular the National Biodiversity Strategies and their action plans within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND WASTE

31. We continue to work towards the environmentally sound management of chemicals and of all wastes, throughout their life cycle, as well as to promote technical capacities, exchange of experiences, transfer of technology and resource mobilization to ensure synergies in existing processes and initiatives within the countries of the region.

WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

32. We reaffirm that the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in accordance with the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which constitute the

cornerstone of the international drug control system and other relevant international instruments, in a multilateral environment and a more intense and effective international cooperation; it demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, balanced, sustainable and broad approach, respectful of human rights, and based on scientific evidence, with measures that are mutually reinforced. We commend the celebration of the 30th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, dedicated to the World Drug Problem, held in April 2016, in New York, and we take note of the results of said Meeting, and we underline our joint commitment to effectively address and counter the World Drug Problem.

DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

33. We recognize that Science, Technology and Innovation are cross-cutting themes in national and regional development plans and that their momentum allows us to build knowledge societies that increase the productive, sustainable and competitive capacities of our countries.
34. We underline the importance for our States to promote collaboration with a view to creating and producing technologies as tools for fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and scientific and economic development, aimed at identifying and finding competitive solutions to local, national and regional problems.
35. We emphasize that the means of implementation contained in the Sustainable Development Goals, including the mobilization of financial resources, as well as capacity building and the transfer to developing countries of environmentally sound technologies under favorable conditions, and even under concessional and preferential conditions, are essential to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, constitute an integral part of it, and are of equal importance as the other Objectives and targets.

CULTURE

36. We ratify the importance of the promotion of the right to culture and its value in order to obtain more equitable societies and the responsibility of States in adopting the necessary measures for the full realization of said objective.

37. Convinced that the CELAC is the ideal space for the expression of our identity and rich cultural diversity, we welcome the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2019 as the International year of Indigenous Languages, and we commit ourselves with the implementation of programs for the recovery, conservation, development, learning and dissemination of the different indigenous languages that are part of our cultures.
38. Recalling that cultural diversity is indispensable for peace and security at the local national and international levels, we commit ourselves to adopt measures to protect cultural expressions and its contents, taking into consideration, among others, the Project for Operational Guidelines for the Implementation, in the digital environment of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

COOPERATION

39. We recognize that the Declaration of Santiago, the Special Declaration of Havana on International Cooperation, and the CELAC Conceptual Framework for International Cooperation will guide cooperation at the community level through the construction of a South-South and Triangular Policy, and through the identification of other alternative financing and technical support mechanisms that support the initiatives and priorities defined by our countries.
40. We welcome the mandate established in the Santo Domingo Declaration of the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC-EU, which entrusts senior officials to reflect on the challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, bi-regional cooperation, including the topic of graduation.
41. We emphasize the need for the CELAC Quartet to consider the follow-up of the special resolution on cooperation with the Republic of Haiti as a permanent point of discussion with extra-regional partners, with the aim to facilitate the implementation of the projects presented by the countries in the framework of the Cooperation Plans and Permanent Mechanisms on cooperation and agreed political dialogue. In this regard, at the IV Meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, held in Santo Domingo on 12 and 13 January, 2017, it was approved to form an Ad Hoc Group to carry out a diagnosis on the

cooperation needs of the Republic of Haiti and to prepare an indicative document that coordinates efforts and resources to streamline the support given.

42. We agree to continue working with the regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms in the area of cooperation, in order to establish procedures that improve coordination and dialogue at all levels.
43. We commit, within this framework, to be mindful of the special needs of the more vulnerable member States of our community.

TRADE

44. Taking into account the need for a non-discriminatory, fair trade system, based on clear, attainable and inclusive norms, we recognize the value of advancing towards the integration and complementarity of our economies, promoting public and private alliances and the participation of all sectors of society committed to the full development of our nations, fostering mechanisms that substantially increase interregional and extra-regional trade, in conformity with the established laws and uses.
45. We consider that unity is the basis to face, in a coordinated fashion, the challenges in a constantly changing world, rapid transformations and globalization, as well as the risks and uncertainties that surround the economy of the region and globally, among which is the volatility of the international financial market and protectionism. In this context, we express our determination to take appropriate measures to anticipate, avoid or mitigate possible effects on our economies and unemployment.
46. We highlight the need to strengthen the capacities and the role of micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to participate in international commerce.
47. We welcome the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Buenos Aires in December, 2017, committing to work together to obtain a package of results that will strengthen the multilateral trading system for the benefit of our peoples.

MIGRATION

48. We share a comprehensive vision of international migration based on a human rights approach that rejects the criminalization of irregular migration, as well as all forms of racism, xenophobia and discrimination against migrants, recognizes the contributions of migrants in the countries of origin and destination, and we reiterate our commitment to promote an orderly, regular and secure migration.
49. We are committed to participate actively in the preparatory process for the Intergovernmental Conference that will consider the Global Migration Pact in 2018 and welcome the offer of Mexico to organize a preparatory meeting.
50. We welcome the decision of some Governments to eliminate discriminatory and selective migration policies that affect migration flows in the region, and urges the elimination of such mechanisms in accordance with the Special Declaration on Migration and Development.

TRANSNATIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

51. We recall the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council through Resolution 17/4 of June 2011, and Resolution 26/9 of June 2014, which established the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational business and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. And likewise take note of Resolution 32/10 on Business and Human Rights, of June 2016, by the United Nations Human Rights Council, the 1st and 2nd Sessions of the Open-Ended Working Group on Transnational Business and other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights, held from the 6th-10th July 2015, and from 24th -28th October, respectively, in the Human Rights Council and the 3rd Meeting of the Working group to be held in 2017.

DECOLONIZATION

52. We reiterate the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico and, in taking note of the decisions on Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee on Decolonization of the United Nations, we reaffirm that it is a matter of interest to

the CELAC. In this sense, we commend the amnesty recently granted by the United States of America to the independence leader Oscar Lopez Rivera.

53. The member countries of the CELAC commit ourselves to continue working within the framework of International Law, and in particular, of Resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly of the United Nations of December 14th, 1960, in order to ensure that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean is a territory free of colonialism and colonies.
54. We reiterate the strongest regional support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the dispute over sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as the continuing interest in the dispute being resolved by the Peaceful settlement and negotiation, in accordance with Resolution 2065 (XX) and subsequent resolutions on the Malvinas question of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Special Committee on Decolonization.

RELATIONS WITH EXTRA-REGIONAL PARTNERS

55. We reiterate that the extra-regional relations of the CELAC constitute mandates of the Declarations and Plans of Action, and must be carried out in accordance with The Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.
56. We welcome the meetings held at the 71st session of UNGA with The Republic of India, Korea, Turkey and the Russian Federation which have allowed us to assess progress and explore the potential for further development of these relations. In this context, we welcome the establishment of the Permanent Mechanism for Political Dialogue and Cooperation of the CELAC with the Republic of India which took place during the Meeting of the Quartet of Foreign Ministers of the CELAC and India on September 22nd 2016 in New York; and we reiterate our will to advance in the implementation of the agreements stipulated in said Mechanism.
57. We value the implementation of the Permanent Mechanism for Political Dialogue and Cooperation with the Russian Federation, expressed in the Meeting of the Expanded Quartet of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, in the city of Sochi, Russia, on

November 14, 2016, during which the guidelines for the cooperation to be developed under this framework were established.

58. We highlight the progress made in the CELAC's relations with the European Union, the holding of the First Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC-EU, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on October 25th and 26th, 2016, where the Declaration of Santo Domingo and the Assessment of Programs and Actions were adopted, and the Agreement Establishing the EU-CELAC Foundation was signed.
59. We welcome the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea to implement the first Korea-CELAC cooperation project with the implementation of the Workshop on Capacity-building for the Internationalization of SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean, on December 9th, 2016 in Santiago de Chile, which resulted from the Tripartite Academic Seminar Korea-CELAC-ECLAC, "Exploring Strategies for Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean", held in the same country on April 11th, 2015.
60. We appreciate the readiness of the People's Republic of China to continue advancing in the implementation of the Cooperation Plan 2015-2019 of the CELAC-China Forum, by implementing the activities agreed for 2016 and we reiterate our willingness to continue to strengthen it.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

61. We will continue to strengthen consultation and coordination among CELAC Member States in the United Nations and other multilateral fora, in order to continue to speaking out as a region, where appropriate, and without prejudice to existing coordinating groups, on issues of interest and relevance to the Community's Member States, as well as to submit, when feasible and required, joint initiatives adopted by consensus.
62. We welcome the election and appointment of the Republic of Ecuador as President of the Group of 77 during 2017.

MULTILATERALISM AND REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

63. We reiterate the importance of strengthening multilateralism and, in that regard, the commitment to the comprehensive reform of the United Nations system. We underscore the importance of deepening intergovernmental efforts to promote the necessary reform of the Security Council, including its work methods, with a view to transform it into a transparent, representative, democratic and effective body in keeping with evolution occurred in the United Nations and international relations in the last 71 years. We also consider it fundamental to revitalize the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

STRENGTHENING OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

64. We welcome the progress made in implementing the agreements reached at the Summits of Heads of State and Government, Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Sector and National Coordinators, and commit to promote, through concrete measures, the agreements adopted.
65. We will continue to strengthen the relationship with ECLAC as a contribution to the work of the Pro Tempore Presidencies and the Community as a whole.
66. We adopt the CELAC 2017 Action Plan, with a view to contributing to the development and progress of our peoples.
67. We are thankful for the support given by member countries for having hosted the sectoral meetings, which we detail below, in compliance with the CELAC 2016 Action Plan: 1st Meeting of the Working Group and 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Education, on April 20th and 21st in the city of San Jose, Costa Rica; 2nd Meeting of Ministers of the Environment or other High-Level National Authorities Related to Climate Change, on June 24th in Panama City, Panama; The 4th Ministerial Meeting of Culture, on October 6th and 7th, in the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia; the 5th Meeting of the CELAC on Migration and the 10th Meeting on Migration CELAC-EU, from November 8th to 11th in the city of Santiago, Chile; the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Family Agriculture, on November 9th, 10th and 11th, in the

city of San Salvador, El Salvador; and the 5th Energy Ministerial Meeting, on November 25th in the city of Quito, Ecuador.

68. We welcome the sister Republic of El Salvador in assuming the Pro Tempore Presidency of our Community for the year 2017 and we commit ourselves to give all the necessary support for the development of a successful administration.
69. We ratify the mandates of the Special Declaration on the Upcoming Pro Tempore Presidencies of CELAC 2017, 2018 and 2019, adopted in New York on 22nd September of 2016 and thank the Plurinational State of Bolivia for hosting the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC in 2019.
70. We value and appreciate the great work and effort made by the Dominican Republic during its presidency, in compliance with the mandates emanating from the 2016 Plan of Action and its implementation.
71. We thank the Government and People of the Dominican Republic for their warm hospitality and excellent organization, as well as for the successful hosting of the 5th Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25th, 2017.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25th, 2017